

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Without prejudice, please amend the claims as reflected in the following listing of claims, which will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of annunciating problems in a system, comprising correlating performance degradation information and service violation information associated with system problems, to produce problem priority information for said system problems; and

producing signals for concurrently indicating ~~a plurality of said system problems and said problem priority information associated with said system problems, in response to data representative of system conditions.~~
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein producing signals ~~for depicting~~ problem priority information comprises quantifying a relative importance of said system problems.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising producing signals which represent a cost associated with at least one problem.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein producing signals which represent a cost, comprises determining service level agreement penalties associated with breaches of service level agreement clauses.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein producing said signals comprises~~ further comprising producing signals indicating performance degradation information and service violation information

associated with a root cause of one of said plurality of system problems.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising receiving from an alarm correlator an indication of an alarm associated with a root cause of a problem.
7. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein producing signals comprises producing signals for use by a display device for producing a display image.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising enabling user selection of at least one of performance degradation information, alarm information and service violation information, for concurrent display with an associated system problem.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein producing ~~signals for depicting problem~~ priority information comprises producing signals for depicting at least one of performance degradation information and service violation information.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein producing signals for depicting ~~problem priority information comprises correlating said performance degradation information and said service violation information to identify said problem priority information associated with said system problems~~ comprises receiving signals representing system fault events.
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~10~~ wherein producing ~~signals for depicting problem~~ priority information comprises quantifying at least one of performance degradation information and service violation information to ~~identify~~ produce said problem priority information associated with said system problems.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising receiving a plurality of alarm data units.
13. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising receiving a plurality of performance degradation data units for providing said performance degradation information.
14. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising receiving a plurality of service violation data units for providing service violation information.
15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising receiving alarm data units for providing alarm information, receiving performance degradation data units for providing performance degradation information and receiving service violation data units for providing service violation information.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising associating at least one of said performance degradation information and said service violation information with one of said system problems.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising producing signals representing a count of at least one of said alarm data units, said performance degradation data units and said service violation data units related to said one of said system problems.
18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein producing signals comprises producing signals for displaying a system problem hierarchy including at least one system problem, and at least one of performance degradation information, alarm information and service violation information associated with a selected one of said problem objects.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting said signals to a display device for use in producing a visual display.
20. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising producing a display image in response to said signals.
21. (Currently amended) A method of annunciating problems in a system comprising correlating performance degradation information and service violation information associated with system problems, to produce problem priority information for said system problems; and concurrently displaying a plurality of said system problems and said problem priority information associated with said system problems in response to data representative of system conditions.
22. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium ~~for providing encoded with~~ instructions for directing a processor circuit to ~~produce signals for concurrently indicating a plurality of system problems and problem priority information associated with said system problems, in response to data representative of system conditions~~ carry out the method of claim 1.
23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable signal comprising a code segment for directing a processor circuit to ~~produce signals for concurrently indicating a plurality of system problems and problem priority information associated with said system problems, in response to data representative of system conditions~~ carry out the method of claim 1.
24. (Currently amended) An apparatus for annunciating problems in a system, comprising

- a) means for receiving data representative of system conditions, said data including performance degradation information and service violation information associated with system problems;
- b) means for correlating said performance degradation information and said service violation information to produce problem priority information for said system problems; and
- bc) means for producing signals for concurrently indicating a ~~plurality of said system problems and said problem priority information associated with said system problems, in response to said data.~~
25. (Currently amended) An apparatus for annunciating problems in a system, comprising:
- a) a receiver for receiving data representative of system conditions, said data including performance degradation information and service violation information associated with system problems;
- b) a signal generator including a processor in communication with said receiver for correlating said performance degradation information and said service violation information, to produce problem priority information for said system problems and for producing signals for concurrently indicating a plurality of said system problems and said problem priority information associated with said system problems, in response to said data.
26. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said signal generator ~~comprises a processor circuit~~ is configured to quantify the a relative importance of said system problems.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said processor circuit is configured to associate a cost with at least one system problem.
28. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said processor circuit is configured to produce signals representing service level agreement penalties which are associated with breaches of service level agreement clauses, ~~in response to said data.~~
29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said ~~signal generator comprises a processor circuit~~ is configured to produce signals indicating performance degradation information and service violation information associated with a root cause of one of said plurality of system problems.
30. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said ~~processor circuit~~ receiver is configured to receive from an alarm correlator an indication of an alarm associated with a root cause of a problem.
31. (Original) The apparatus claimed in claim 25 wherein said signal generator is operable to produce signals for use by a display device for producing a display image.
32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said signal generator is operable to produce signals for concurrently displaying with an associated system problem at least one of performance degradation information, alarm information and service violation information.
33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said signal generator is operable to produce said signals for concurrently displaying said at least one of performance degradation information, alarm information and service violation information in response to user input.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said signal generator is configured to produce signals for depicting at least one of performance degradation information and service violation information.
35. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said signal generator ~~receiver~~ is configured to ~~correlate said performance degradation information and said service violation information to identify said problem priority information associated with said system problems~~ receive data representing system fault events.
36. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~35~~ 25 wherein said signal generator ~~processor~~ is configured to quantify at least one of performance degradation information and service violation information to identify said problem priority information associated with said system problems.
37. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said signal generator ~~receiver~~ is configured to receive a plurality of alarm data units.
38. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said signal generator ~~receiver~~ is configured to receive a plurality of performance degradation data units for providing said performance degradation information.
39. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said signal generator ~~receiver~~ is configured to receive a plurality of service violation data units for providing service violation information.
40. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said signal generator ~~receiver~~ is configured to receive alarm data units for providing alarm information, receive performance degradation data

units for providing performance degradation information and receive service violation data units for providing service violation information.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40 wherein said signal generator is configured to correlate at least one of said alarm information, performance degradation information, service violation information with one of said system problems.
42. (Original) The apparatus of claim 41 wherein said signal generator is configured to produce a count of at least one of said alarm data units, said performance degradation data units and said service violation data units related to said one of said system problems.
43. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said signal generator is configured to cause said signals to indicate a system problem hierarchy including at least one system problem, and a representation of at least one of performance degradation information, alarm information and service violation information associated with one of said system problems, selected by a user.
44. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising a transmitter for transmitting said signals to a display device.
45. (Currently amended) A display apparatus for annunciating problems in a system, the apparatus comprising:
 - a) a receiver for receiving data representative of system conditions, said data including performance degradation information and service violation information associated with system problems;
 - b) a signal generator including a processor circuit in communication with said receiver for correlating said performance degradation information and said service violation information, to produce

problem priority information for said system problems; and for producing signals for concurrently indicating a plurality of said system problems and said problem priority information associated with said system problems, in response to said data; and

- c) a display device for producing a visual image in response to said signals.

46. (Currently amended) A method of annunciating problems in a system, comprising correlating current performance degradation information and service violation information associated with system problems, to produce problem priority information for said system problems; and producing signals for concurrently indicating a plurality of displaying said system problems and said problem priority information associated with said system problems, in response to data representative of current system conditions.
47. (Currently amended) A method of annunciating problems in a system, comprising correlating current performance degradation information and service violation information associated with system problems, to produce problem priority information for said system problems; and producing signals for concurrently indicating a plurality of displaying said system problems and said problem priority information associated with said system problems, in response to data representative of system conditions, wherein producing said signals further comprises the step of and producing signals which represent a cost associated with at least one problem.
48. (Currently amended) An apparatus for annunciating problems in a system, comprising:

- a) a receiver for receiving current data representative of system conditions, said current data including current performance degradation information and service violation information associated with system problems; and
- b) a signal generator including a processor in communication with said receiver for correlating said performance degradation information and said service violation information, to produce problem priority information for said system problems; and for producing signals for concurrently indicating a plurality of said system problems and said problem priority information associated with said system problems in response to said current data.
49. (Currently amended) An apparatus for annunciating problems in a system, comprising:
- a) a receiver for receiving current data representative of system conditions, said current data including performance degradation information and service violation information associated with system problems; and
- b) a signal generator including a processor in communication with said receiver for correlating performance degradation information and said service violation information, to produce problem priority information for said system problems; and for producing signals for concurrently indicating a plurality of said system problems and said problem priority information associated with said system problems, in response to said data and wherein said signal generator comprises means for associating a cost with at least one system problem.